

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In this response, claims 1-6, 8, 12-13 and 19-20 have been reviewed and amended to improve their clarity and thus further distinguish over the art of record.

1) The rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-20 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the disclosure of Menendez et al., is respectfully traversed.

For example, independent claim 1, as amended, calls for each of the plurality of servicing modules to comprise first and second sets of servicing components and for each of the servicing modules to exclusively service a given printhead. This claim further calls for the first set to comprise a spittoon which is independently replaceable and for the other of the first or second sets to also be independently replaceable. In other words, both the spittoon and the other set can be taken off their respective module and replaced with another.

There is no disclosure of this combination of interchangeability in Menendez et al. That is to say, the section of Menendez et al. which is relied upon to disclose the claimed interchangeability is, at column 2, lines 21-30, such as to state:

Often, each cartridge will have its own servicing components, for example **wiper and cap**, within the service station so that contamination of these components for example by different coloured inks does not occur. These servicing components are also often replaceable, **either individually or as a unit**, so that they can be changed during the lifetime of the printer, or even (given presently achieved longer cartridge lifetimes) when the cartridge is replaced, so as to maintain high quality cartridge servicing functions within the printer. (Emphasis added)

As will be appreciated, there is no specific disclosure of the spittoon *per se* being interchangeable. The remainder of this reference contains only four references to the term spittoon, and none of these instances are such as to disclose or suggest that the spittoon itself is replaceable along with the components which are subject to wear and tear such as the wipers and the cap.

Thus, it is submitted that the claims as amended above, make it clear that the spittoon must be interchangeable along with other components. These amendments thus overcome the anticipation rejection which fails to specifically disclose this feature.

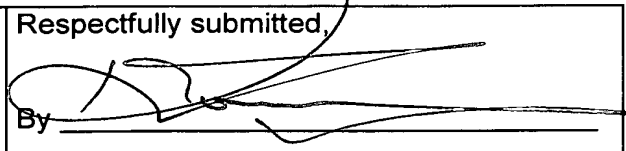
The rejection of claims 16-20 is also traversed on the ground that they call for a kit and that such an arrangement is neither disclosed nor suggested in Menendez et al.

2) The rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez et al., is respectfully traversed. The amendment to claim 1 which overcomes the anticipation rejection renders this rejection moot. Further, the citation of "only routine skill in the art" is challenged and it is respectfully requested that this position be substantiated by the citation of a reference or references as per PEP 2144.03.

3) New claims 21-24 are added in this response. These claims define structure which neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record and thus are deemed patentable for at least this reason.

Support for these claims is found in paragraph [0039] which states that "The spittoon component 320 includes an opening 322 configured to receive spitted ink. Although not illustrated, the opening 322 generally leads to a spittoon chamber which generally operates to store the spitted ink. The spittoon chamber may have a volume that is smaller than conventional spittoons, having a capacity of, for example, approximately 40 ml."

In conclusion it is submitted that the claims as they stand before the Patent and Trademark Office are allowable for at least the reasons advanced above.

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